

# Eye Safety At Work

## Is Everyone's Business.



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### Educating Your Community About Workplace Eye Injury

Workplace activities, programs, and workshops are effective ways to educate your employees about eye safety and the importance of using protective eyewear.

Every effort, large or small, can help reduce workplace eye injuries. The following list provides ideas for activities that can be customized to meet the needs of your organization.

#### Community eye and health care professionals can take the lead.

- ❖ Develop activities to address current workplace eye health needs in your community.
- ❖ Build on existing efforts by adding workplace eye injury messages to general eye health or employee health activities. Tailor events to target specific industries, companies, work settings, or types of workers.
- ❖ Share your ideas and brainstorm possible activities with eye care professionals and other occupational health- or labor-related organizations.
- ❖ Create a planning group. Identify resources that are available locally, and look for approaches that benefit all participants. Make sure that your planning group represents the full range of groups that have a stake in workplace eye safety in your community.
- ❖ Encourage local businesses to use the Healthy Vision Month messages and materials and/or to adapt their company messages to include workplace eye injury. Help identify new ways for employers to reach the target population.
- ❖ Share your goals and your plan for reducing visual impairment due to workplace eye injury. Help others implement activities for their own organization or business:
  - Raising awareness of workplace eye safety issues.
  - Promoting the use of protective eyewear.
  - Improving eye safety practices.
  - Providing vision screening to detect overlooked injuries and correct visual impairments that can lead to injuries.
- ❖ Help businesses and organizations establish specific timelines for activities and decide upon ways to measure their progress.
- ❖ Find businesses and organizations that can work together to share resources and implement activities to promote workplace eye safety.

#### Community leaders can raise awareness.

- ❖ Know the workplace eye injury statistics in your community and use them in your media materials, speeches, and interviews.
- ❖ Support activities in your community that raise awareness about workplace eye injury by issuing a proclamation, hosting an event, or visiting a workplace where eye injury is a hazard. Wear protective eyewear in appropriate environments.
- ❖ Review legislation to find opportunities for improving or enhancing eye safety requirements in hazardous job situations.
- ❖ Lend your likeness and/or a quote to be used in community eye safety materials.



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- ❖ Play public service announcements on your radio or television station and arrange for spokespersons to appear on your community talk shows.
- ❖ Print articles about workplace eye safety and the need for protective eyewear in your newspaper or newsletter.

### **Special events can encourage the use of protective eyewear.**

- ❖ Make the goal of having protective eyewear for employees at risk for eye injury the focus of a special event, such as "Take Your Child to Work Day." Ask a local official to hold a press conference announcing this goal, accompanied by business owners who pledge to help meet this goal.
- ❖ Support Healthy Vision Month or another safety observance event to emphasize eye safety in the workplace. Arrange for eye care professionals or workplace safety experts to address business, professional, or employee groups.
- ❖ Include protective eyewear displays at trade shows, demonstrations of tools and equipment, agricultural fairs, and similar events.

### **Employers can encourage the use of protective eyewear.**

- ❖ Place posters in agricultural, mechanical, manufacturing, automotive, construction, electrical, and plumbing supply outlets and worksites where there is risk of eye injury.
- ❖ Put inserts promoting the use of protective eyewear in pay envelopes.
- ❖ Sponsor safety education events and include eye safety in other workplace health promotion efforts, such as immunization and blood drives.
- ❖ Display and demonstrate protective eyewear, devices, safety tips, and emergency procedures.
- ❖ Ask local businesses, media outlets, hospitals, or health organizations to provide financial or in-kind support for workplace eye safety activities or protective eyewear.
- ❖ Encourage employees to have regular eye exams to prevent workplace accidents due to poor vision.
- ❖ Build a foundation for workplace eye safety. Include eye safety in job training programs and in the orientation of new employees.
- ❖ Address occupational eye safety in offices, as well as in industrial, construction, and repair settings.

### **Businesses can support community-wide efforts.**

- ❖ Have safety professionals in large businesses assist small businesses in the community with assessing their eye safety needs. Stress the importance that even small businesses must provide safety eyewear to their workers when an eye hazard exists.
- ❖ Donate or subsidize the cost of protective eyewear for small businesses and self-employed or low-income contract workers. These donations can be coordinated through a local eye health organization or community business group.
- ❖ Support workplace eye safety activities conducted by groups that develop programs to reach target audiences.
- ❖ Invite organizations that conduct workplace eye safety activities to participate in your company health and wellness activities, such as health fairs, trainings, and informational seminars.